

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

071633Z Dec 05

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	CA-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	E-00	UTED-00	VCI-00
	FDRE-01	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OMB-00
	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PA-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	PRS-00
	P-00	ISNE-00	SP-00	IRM-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00	EPAE-00
	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/002W			

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2698
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 001741

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/C, AF/EPS, EB AND PRM
USAID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA, FFP, CMM AND OTI

ACCRA FOR USAID/WARP
NAIROBI FOR OFDA AND RFFPO
DAKAR FOR RFFPO
LIBREVILLE FOR REO, M. CASSETTA
ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAID](#) [SOCI](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [CD](#) [USAID](#)
SUBJECT: USAID/OFDA PROGRAMMING IN EASTERN CHAD

REF: NDJAMENA 01708

Reftel provided summary report of USG team which conducted project monitoring trip to eastern Chad November 17-25. Final nine paragraphs were truncated from that message during transmission and are being repeated below.

CRS

139. Funds were provided through CRS to its local partner, Secours Catholique pour la Development (SECADEV), a leading Chadian NGO working in three refugee camps on behalf of UNHCR. Based in Abeche, SECADEV has been active in the area since 1987, and has also received funding directly from CRS, from CARITAS and other international sources. The OFDA-funded inputs consisting of vegetable seeds and garden tools are targeted to 7,708 participants in 48 villages near the Kounoungo and Farchana refugee camps. The team visited a garden plot at Kondoko village, located at a distance of 6 km from the Kounoungo camp, where tomatoes and water melon were in abundance; the team also met with the SECADEV regional staff in Abeche.

140. According to the Kondoko village leader, the village has about 150 families scattered along the wadi where they practice some vegetable gardening using traditional shallow wells. With the support of SECADEV, which has provided tomato, pepper, onion, melon, watermelon and lettuce seeds, and will shortly distribute tools including watering cans, wheelbarrows and hoes, the villagers have a sizable vegetable garden.

141. The village leader said they plan to keep most of the vegetables for their own use, but do sell some in Guereda, and sell watermelons to dealers who visit them with pickup trucks. They are appreciative of the help provided by SECADEV, especially the technical expertise in preparing the soil beds and strengthening the traditional wells. They said their children are healthier, they have more disposable income and an alternate food/income source to their livestock.

142. The SECADEV representative was well-known by the villagers, who gave the group a warm reception, clearly thankful for the project. If the villagers are able to

retain some seeds from their crop and expertise from SECADEV's technicians, then the project should have some lasting benefit.

FAO

143. The three objectives of FAO's project are to provide material inputs and technical advice for rain-fed and irrigated agriculture, vaccinate 500,000 animals and establish coordination in the food security sector. It also hopes to shift efforts on behalf of refugees from food distribution to food security. To this end, it reports that most local authorities are open to the idea of making government land available for refugee cultivation, as long as the international community is willing to help with required funding.

144. The team was not able to visit any actual FAO projects. Because the OFDA funds arrived too late for the 2005 rain-fed cereal season, FAO only opened the office in Abeche in early October. It has brought in an experienced Burundian agronomist to manage the program, with three local experts to assist. FAO has also received a grant for 670,000 Euros from the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) for similar

activities in the area.

145. According to the international consultant, the need for coordination is growing. There are 12 NGOs now engaged in food security in eastern Chad. The ministries of agriculture and livestock are both represented in Abeche by delegates, but they are constrained by a lack of logistical capacity and experience with international NGOs. FAO will focus on supporting government coordination efforts.

146. In terms of the food security sector in general, FAO believes a conceptual shift from food provision to assisting refugees and local people to produce their own will be important. In the agriculture sector, improved seeds, research efforts, introduction of improved cultivation and water management techniques are required. For livestock, vaccination, marketing, and animal productivity could be improved. In general, the FAO consultant believes, eastern Chad has enormous potential for improved food production, but requires material resources, expertise and time to achieve it.

CONCLUSION

147. OFDA's partners in eastern Chad have gotten off to a good start. The fact that most are also partners of UNHCR and State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration means they were able to capitalize on their existing capacity to get a quick start. It also means they have a good sense of the tensions and issues between the refugees and local population.

148. NGOs funded by OFDA need to address several issues going forward. First, USAID's new branding policy needs to be communicated to them from their respective headquarters, and implemented. OFDA's Nairobi rep was happy, however, to hear from IRC in Bahai that it is already aware of the new policy and will be implementing it. Second, they will need to continue making every effort to fully coordinate activities within their sectors and geographic areas. Third, it will be important to maintain the unity of purpose and message within the assistance community that appears now. Finally, they will want to step up efforts to keep embassy assistance officer and Nairobi OFDA rep informed of developments affecting their projects, and of progress made.

149. The good rains in eastern Chad this year have provided a needed respite, and have alleviated some of the tension between the refugees and Chadians. Nevertheless, the activities of OFDA's partners and those funded by UNHCR and other sources on behalf of the local population are vital to maintain the hospitable atmosphere and welcome extended to the refugees.

WALL

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